

Ft Harrison Museum Foundation



P.O. Box 125
Fort Harrison, MT
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EXHIBIT 4
DATE 2.21.07
HB 746

My name is Jim Duffy, I am the President of the Montana Military Museum Foundation and I am here to speak in favor of HB 746.

The Montana Military Museum is an all volunteer organization dedicated to telling the Montana Military Story, from its earliest beginning with Lewis and Clark expedition up to the current war in Iraq. We are a non-profit 501c(3) organization and are currently registered with the Montana Secretary of State. The museum is located at the National Guard Training center, Fort William Henry Harrison, Montana, approximately 5 milse west of Helena.

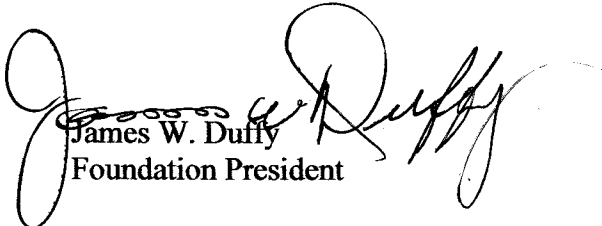
The Museum is funded with all private money and all artifacts and exhibits in the museum have either been purchased on the open market or have been donated or constructed on site.

Many donors are more willing to give to charitable entities when they know there is a tax credit available for them. If House Bill 746 is passed as written the Museum Foundation Board members believe it would be more enticing for would be donors to donate high value military items such as military paintings that may otherwise remain hidden in storage rather than on display where the Montana citizens could all enjoy. Our experience tells us that to have a professional Museum as ours that displays rare items, we need to purchase these items as they become available and usually at an extremely high cost. Most Montanans are very generous but this incentive would likely create a even more generous atmosphere.

The Montana Military Museum will continue to exhibit the rich Montana military history, however we need to expand to continue our displays on up to the current war on terrorism. Currently our available space allows us to display exhibits from the Lewis and Clark discovery through World War II. Future progress can only be accomplished through charitable donations, as of this date we operate only on private money.

During the last few years the foundation has received many out of State donations due to the fact other States do have similar laws that provide tax credit incentives.

As president of the Montana Military Museum Foundation I urge this committee to pass HB 476 as written.


James W. Duffy
Foundation President